Shawna Owen P.O. Box 2039 McKinleyville, CA 95519 July 12, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-350) Food and Drug Administration 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061 Rockville, MD 20852 Docket No. 99D-0557

Dear FDA:

I am writing this letter to inform you that I am against any xenotransplantation research. Responsible health authorities would ban all xenotransplants outright, regardless of the species, particularly because of the threats of inter-species virus transmission.

Pigs are being considered as the source animal of choice for xenotransplants. But there is no evidence that pigs are any safer than nonhuman primates. Pig viruses are just as dangerous as nonhuman primate viruses.

The U.S. should follow Europe's lead. In January 1999, the Council of Europe, representing 40 European countries, recommended a world-wide ban on xenotransplants.

Their are safer and more humane alternatives to xenotransplantation, such as aggressively promoting preventive medicine and increasing human organ donation rates.

Respectfully,

Shawna Owen

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